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engaged in division. The figures support what the author regards as a general law, that the rate of accretion varies inversely with the size of the organism. There is nothing particularly new about that, but there is value in abundant data.—RAYMOND H. POND.

Mechanics of plants.—LORCH describes the arrangement of mechanical tissues in a number of mosses and the warping effects produced thereby in absorbing or losing water.³³ His observations upon the circinate inrolling of *Leptodon Smilthii* and some allies, and the behavior of leaves possessing mechanical tissues in ribs and borders, as the Polytrichaceae, are interesting, but develop nothing specially novel. The same may be said of the study of the mechanical system of the hyaline cells in Sphagnum leaves.³⁴—C. R. B.

Respiration.—A rather startling announcement is that by STOKLASA³⁵ and his assistants that in coal and lignite they find an enzyme, peroxidase; and by comparative experiments on sterilized and non-sterilized coals, following the methods of PALLADIN and his pupils, they recognize the excretion of CO₂ as dependent partly upon autoxidation and partly upon enzymic action. The excretion of methane and hydrogen is due to the peroxidase.—C. R. B.

Secretions of enzymes.—PANTANELLI has continued his study of this topic, of which he presents a detailed account.³⁶ Though he has recorded the effect of many substances upon the formation and action of invertase in *Mucor*, he has not been able to throw much light upon the deeper problem of the method of secretion.—C. R. B.

Physiology of movement.—The *New Phytologist* is printing an interesting series of lectures on this subject by Mr. FRANCIS DARWIN, beginning in the number for November 1906.³⁷—C. R. B.

³³ LORCH, WM., Einige Bewegungs- und Schrumfungserscheinungen an den Achsen und Blättern mehrerer Laubmoose als Folge des Verlustes von Wasser. *Flora* 97:76-95. *figs.* 20. 1907.

³⁴ ———, Das mechanische System der Blätter, insbesondere der Stämmchenblätter von Sphagnum. *Idem* 97:96-106. *figs.* 11.

³⁵ STOKLASA, J., A. ERNST and K. CHOCENSKÝ, Ueber die anaërobe Atmung der Samenpflanzen und die Isolierung der Atmungsenzyme. II. Ber. Deutsch. Bot. Gesells. 25:38-42. 1907.

³⁶ PANTANELLI, E., Meccanismo di secrezione degli enzimi. *Annali di Bot.* 5:229-272, 355-416, 1906.

³⁷ I. Associated stimuli. Nov. 1906. II. On some questions of nomenclature and method. Dec. 1906. III. The analysis of geotropism. Jan. 1907. IV. The localisation of perception. Feb. 1907.